

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Uruguay

DATE DISTR. 1 July 1948

SUBJECT Tension Developing Between UGT and Minister of Industry and Labor

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. Minister of Industry and Labor Fernando Farina, in a recent conference with Enrique Rodriguez, Secretary General of the Union General de Trabajadores (U.G.T.), is said to have stated emphatically and caustically that the Uruguayan Government considered at an end all its efforts to mediate the conflict between the workers of the milk monopoly in Montevideo, CONAPROLE, and their managers. Farina added that he was very tired of the Communists and the Communist-dominated UGT, provocators of the unjustifiable strike now several weeks old.
2. Farina indicated that he was ready to request the aid and cooperation of the Montevideo Police and the Army and to take whatever steps were necessary to avoid the interruption of the Montevideo milk supply, but he would not interfere again in trying to bring about a compromise with the strikers. He also reiterated that he, as well as President Batlle Berres, was disposed to guarantee to the workers all the social gains that they had won; however, he would not put up with UGT high-pressure tactics.
3. [REDACTED] this fracas marks a break in the hitherto friendly relations between leaders of the UGT and the Minister. Farina assumed his post very kindly inclined towards the Communist-infiltrated labor union, which was filled with many of his old acquaintances and friends. The milk strike and other high-handed maneuvers of the UGT have embarrassed him greatly, however, and his attitude appears noticeably changed.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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